

Study Abroad Website	<a href="https://studyabroad.hkust.edu.hk/inbound">https://studyabroad.hkust.edu.hk/inbound</a>												
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Important Dates (Tentative)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Exchange period</u></th> <th><u>Term dates (inclusive of final examination)</u></th> <th><u>Application period</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fall Term:</td> <td>1 Sep 2025 - 19 Dec 2025</td> <td>Early Feb - 31 Mar 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spring Term:</td> <td>2 Feb 2026 - 29 May 2026</td> <td>Early Jul - 30 Sep 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year Long:</td> <td>1 Sep 2025 - 29 May 2026</td> <td>Early Feb - 31 Mar 2025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Exchange period</u>	<u>Term dates (inclusive of final examination)</u>	<u>Application period</u>	Fall Term:	1 Sep 2025 - 19 Dec 2025	Early Feb - 31 Mar 2025	Spring Term:	2 Feb 2026 - 29 May 2026	Early Jul - 30 Sep 2025	Year Long:	1 Sep 2025 - 29 May 2026	Early Feb - 31 Mar 2025
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Application	<p><b>Eligibility</b></p> <p>Students are normally expected to have completed 2 years of undergraduate study by the start of the exchange, and be in good academic standing at their home institution. Students must be nominated by their home institution.</p> <p><i>Special note for students applying to the School of Business and Management: Students must be majoring in business and have completed at least two years of study at the home institution at the time of application. Students should have no more than one low or failing grade.</i></p> <p><b>English language proficiency</b></p> <p>English is the medium of instruction at HKUST. Only some courses related to Chinese language or literature may be conducted in Mandarin or Cantonese.</p> <p>Exchange students are expected to have English proficiency level equivalent to TOEFL iBT 80 or IELTS 6.0. For details about the English Language proficiency requirements, please refer to the requirements section listed on the website: <a href="https://join.hkust.edu.hk/admissions/international-qualifications">https://join.hkust.edu.hk/admissions/international-qualifications</a>.</p> <p><b>Documents required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic transcript, including the current semester's course list (Produced in English)</li> <li>• Passport copy (the page with the personal details and photo)</li> <li>• English Language Proficiency Proof</li> </ul>												
Academic	<p><b>Course availability</b></p> <p>Exchange students can enroll in undergraduate courses offered by the Schools below as long as there are places available and they fulfill the course prerequisites and any other enrollment conditions prescribed for the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School of Science (SSCI)</li> <li>- School of Engineering (SENG)</li> <li>- School of Business and Management (SBM)</li> <li>- School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS)</li> <li>- Academy of Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS)</li> </ul>												

Restrictions

1. Postgraduate level courses are usually not open for enrollment to undergraduate exchange students. Courses of self-finance programs are not open to exchange students.
2. Computer science courses have high demand at HKUST, thus will be difficult for exchange students to enroll into our computer science courses. Students are advised to be flexible in choosing their courses.

**Study load**

The Fall and Spring terms are each 13 weeks long. One credit generally represents 40-50 learning hours. In general, the minimum credit load is 12 credits (equivalent to three or four courses) and the maximum is 18 credits (equivalent to five or six courses).

Course catalog: <https://prog-crs.hkust.edu.hk/ugcourse>

Important note:

1. Each School may have its own policy towards course registration and study load. Please observe and abide by the regulations of the hosting School.
2. Courses in the Course Catalog are for reference only. Not all courses in the Catalog are offered every term and the course list will be confirmed around 1 month before the start of the term. Exchange students must be flexible with their course choices.

**Grades & Transcripts**

HKUST adopts a 4-point grading system, with letter grades, with Grade D being a marginal pass. For details of the grading system, please refer to <https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/transcript-grading>.

Upon program completion, HKUST will produce transcripts in electronic format detailing the courses taken and the grades obtained. The transcripts will be sent to student and the home institution.

Credit transfers are approved by students' home institutions. Students should check with their home institution on its policy regarding the transfer of grades and credits.

**Accommodation**

**Exchange students are guaranteed and expected to stay in University accommodation during their exchange period at HKUST. Students who wish to opt out of University housing are required to provide justification (e.g., living with family or relatives in Hong Kong) and seek special approval from HKUST.**

There are nine on-campus halls and one off-campus hall for undergraduate students. Exchange students will be randomly assigned to a double room in one of these HKUST student halls. Students are not allowed to choose a specific hall or their roommates.

Each room is air-conditioned, and furnished with desks, chairs, bookshelves, beds and mattresses (no bedding), wardrobes and a mini-fridge. Common facilities include showers, toilets, common rooms with TVs, pantries, microwaves, telephones, washing machines and tumble dryers. Wired and Wi-Fi internet access are available in the student halls.

**Finance**

***Fees***

Under the formal exchange agreement, the tuition fee is waived. Exchange students are required to pay a lump-sum of HK\$16,000 (subject to revision) for covering the following upon acceptance:

- University-provided accommodation
- Student visa application and handling
- HKUST Compulsory Travel Insurance

*Notes: The amount will be deducted accordingly if students choose not to live in University accommodation, or do not need a visa to study in Hong Kong.*

	<p><b><i>Estimated living cost</i></b></p> <p>Living expenses vary depending on your lifestyle choices. Please budget around HK\$25,000 (US\$3,200) per term including transportation, meals, course materials and daily supplies.</p>
<p><b>Student Visa</b></p>	<p>The Hong Kong Immigration Department requires all non-local students to obtain a student visa in order to study in Hong Kong. In general, students who do not possess the right of abode or the right to land in Hong Kong, or hold a dependent's visa, are required a student visa.</p> <p>HKUST Office of Global Learning will assist exchange students with the student visa application process. Detailed information will be provided upon acceptance.</p>
<p><b>Insurance</b></p>	<p>All exchange students are required to subscribe to HKUST Compulsory Travel Insurance Plan that covers the duration of your study. The policy provides for the coverage listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medical and hospitalization for illnesses and accidents</li> <li>- Personal liability</li> <li>- Medical evacuation and repatriation</li> </ul> <p>Detailed coverage can be found at <a href="https://sfao.hkust.edu.hk/individual.php?l=24">https://sfao.hkust.edu.hk/individual.php?l=24</a>.</p>
<p><b>Health Matters</b></p>	<p><b><i>On-campus medical and dental services</i></b></p> <p>Exchange students can enjoy free out-patient services in the on-campus Medical Clinic and dental services at the on-campus Student Dental Clinic.</p> <p><b><i>Public hospitals</i></b></p> <p>The Hong Kong public healthcare system is of high quality. As an exchange student, you can visit the public hospitals in Hong Kong when you need medical services.</p>
<p><b>Arrival and Orientation</b></p>	<p><b><i>Arrival dates</i></b></p> <p>Fall Term 2025: 27 August 2025 (To be confirmed)  Spring Term 2026: 28 January 2026 (To be confirmed)</p> <p><i>** Students are advised not to purchase flight tickets until the dates are confirmed.</i></p> <p><b><i>Getting to HKUST</i></b></p> <p>Options for getting to HKUST from the Hong Kong International Airport or Hung Hom Train Station can be found at <a href="https://studyabroad.hkust.edu.hk/inbound/arrival/getting-to-hkust">https://studyabroad.hkust.edu.hk/inbound/arrival/getting-to-hkust</a>.</p> <p><b><i>Orientation</i></b></p> <p>A series of orientation activities and welcome events are organized especially for exchange students. Some of them are mandatory. Details can be found at <a href="https://studyabroad.hkust.edu.hk/inbound/arrival/activities">https://studyabroad.hkust.edu.hk/inbound/arrival/activities</a>.</p> <p><b><i>Exchange Buddy Program</i></b></p> <p>HKUST Exchange Buddy Program pairs exchange student up with a HKUST student, who might be their first friend in Hong Kong. The buddies will provide useful information for exchange students prior to arrival and help them familiarize with the campus and Hong Kong, and meet new friends. Sign up information will be sent to exchange students around two months before the start of the exchange program.</p>

Updated on 25 February 2025